

SEPTEMBER 2021

# ALBERTA ELKS NEWS

## **George Van Verdegem \$30,000 Winner of the Alberta Elks Foundation Raffle**



### ***Giving Back to the Community Strathmore, Alberta, June 15, 2021***

Every year the Alberta Elks Foundation conducts the sale of raffle tickets, with all the funds staying in Alberta with the local Elks Lodges who in turn support local community efforts. This year the winning ticket for \$30,000 was sold by Bro. Mike Ramsay of the Strathmore Elks Lodge 491 to Mr. George Van Verdegem, a local Strathmore farmer.

Mr. Van Verdegem, promptly announced that he was donating the winnings and adding \$34,000 of his own money for a total of \$64,000 in support of the purchase of a Special Order Handi bus for the Strathmore & Wheatland County area.

***Congratulations George and what a kind and generous gesture!***

# Chauvin Elks Lodge No. 261

A local family in Chauvin Alberta lost their house to a fire in late 2020. Chauvin Elks Lodge No. 261 quickly reached out to them to see what could be done to help them. The Chauvin Elks were able to secure \$500.00 from the AB Elks fund for Disaster Relief, \$1000.00 from the Elks & Royal Purple fund for children and a matching donation of \$1500.00 from the Chauvin Elks Lodge No. 261 that comes from local fundraisers. The family was very pleased with the ease and speed that help was able to be given to them. Thank you goes out to the AB Elks fund for disaster Relief and the Elks & Royal Purple fund for children. Also thanks to the people of Chauvin for supporting the local Elks branch so we can react quickly and in a timely manner when a disaster occurs.

Bryan Skinner  
Exalted Ruler  
Chauvin Elks No. 261

## Elks and Royal Purple Walk for Children

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children is our national charity. It provides us with an excellent opportunity to help those in need as well as exhibiting the very principles on which we were founded. In Alberta this is our major fundraiser and allows each member to contribute through local participation and public awareness.

I am asking for lodges in the following zones to please reach out to myself if interested in stepping forward to become a host lodge with a designated coordinator. Zones are as follows, North, North Central, South Central, and South.

The Walk for Children has been decided to take place on May 14th, 2022. It would be greatly appreciated if I could collect the Host Lodge, and name of the designated coordinator by December 15th, 2021.

Tam looking forward to your participation and thank you wholeheartedly for your support to such an amazing cause.

Yours Fraternally,  
Vernon Thuroo, Chairperson Alberta Walk for Children  
vernthuroo@yahoo.ca  
(403) 820-0650



VEHICLE ACCESS

Parents Candra and Riley Sexton accept \$500 from Camrose Elks Lodge exalted ruler Gerry Czapp and \$2,000 from the Alberta Elks Foundation to assist with the cost of home and vehicle accessibility modifications for Grade 3 student Chloe.

## Sexton family receives funds to assist with modifications

By Murray Green

Grade 3 student Chloe Sexton received some funds from the Camrose Elks Lodge and Royal Purple to assist with home and vehicle accessibility modifications.

"Chloe is a bright eight-year-old, who also has dyskinetic cerebral palsy. Chloe requires a manual and power wheelchair for mobility, a computer communication device and a low tech alternative PODD book to communicate. She requires full support to be independent," said mom Candra.

The Chester Ronning School student requires a full-time educational assis-

tant to help her learn in the classroom.

"Ever since Chloe came home through adoption, we have carried her from our home to our vehicle multiple times a day, which includes stairs. We then carry her wheelchair to load it in the van for wherever we go," explained Riley.

Her power chair can only be used at school because the Sexton's home and vehicle was not equipped to handle the power chair. It weighs 200 pounds and can't easily be lifted.

"We are also concerned about Chloe's safety and the safety of caregivers when carrying her up and down the stairs. Our worst

fear would be to drop her or hurt her/ourselves in the process," added Candra.

As she grows, it will be harder to keep up with the situation with unless modifications are made to their home and vehicle.

To make all of the necessary changes to the home and vehicle, it is estimated to cost \$11,400 for the vehicle lift and wheelchair system, \$6,300 for a porch lift, and \$6,500 for deck and home modifications to support the lift and chair, for a total of \$23,900.

Together, the Camrose Elks Lodge, Alberta Elks Foundation and the Royal Purple donated \$3,000 to assist the family with those costs.



Parents Candra and Riley Sexton accept \$500 from Camrose Elks Lodge exalted ruler Murray Green, Camrose Booster Doreen Kelly to assist with the cost of home and vehicle accessibility modifications for Grade 3 student Chloe.



# President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters...



As summer comes to a close, and the world is slowly allowing us to move about freely, it's time for all Elks to renew their commitment to "Serving Our Communities". For a number of years, we've heard that to survive as an organization we must get new members, but it's more than that....

**DON'T JUST GROW MEMBERSHIP... GROW IT STRONG!** We must realize that we don't grow by chance, but by **CHANGE**. So what does that change mean? It means **GETTING PEOPLE ACTIVE** and finding ways to **CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**. Too often we hear Lodges complain that their membership is too small and aging. Okay. So how about

- □ Reaching out to other organizations to partner on an event or project?
- □ When groups come to you for sponsorship, why not use them as volunteers to help raise the money they are asking for?
- □ You want to hold a Seniors' Christmas Dinner...so how about reaching out to the local Graduation Class and having them (and their parents) do the set up, serving, clean up and in exchange, you make a donation to their Graduation Party?
- □ ... And what about Lodges in your District? Fraternity is a core value in Elksdom...so what about getting together with other Lodges in your area and having some fun working together on a project?



We must recognize that many other non-profit organizations are facing the same challenges we are...so join together for resources, ideas, volunteers. Maybe strike a committee and their task is to identify all the "groups" and "organizations" in your community...everyone from Chambers of Commerce to Boy Scouts and Sport Associations. Who shares common goals? Who needs funding? We are great at giving money away, but isn't it just as important that the people we give to feel like they also helped?

**"Weathering the Storm Together"** means finding ways to be not just what we were before the storm...but how we can come out on the other side stronger, wiser and healthier as Elks/RP Elks. We must change...we must **STOP BEING INVISIBLE**...we must get out there and show our Community that volunteering is **FUN** and **REWARDING**.

So, Brothers and Sisters...get busy... go to our Alberta Elks website and take a look at the ideas for projects and events...reach out to other Lodges and ask them to help make your project successful. Be safe...stay healthy and get active!

Barbara Evans

Alberta Elks Association President



/ <http://elksfalconberta.ca> / [elks.secretary@abelks.org](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.org)



# Elks Proud

**"The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go."**

**- Dr. Seuss, - I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!**

## **ELKS ..... Elks Literacy Kickstart Program**

We know that fostering a love of reading and learning is key to ensuring our children's success in school and life. Access to literacy programs help children stay on track developmentally, grow as readers and help develop that into lifelong learning.

Since 2016 the Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge has sponsored a Literacy Program for schools in the City of Fort Saskatchewan in partnership with James Mowat Elementary to encourage personal reading goals for the Grade 3 students. This year we donated a total of \$500 to James Mowat Elementary School for the E.L.K.S Literacy Program. Due to Covid-19 and to work within the current restrictions we decided to present each class with \$100 and let the Teachers and Students decide how best to spend the money with a focus on Literacy for their classroom. To bridge the gap for the 2019-2020 Literacy Program that missed out last year because of the pandemic, both Grade 4 classrooms will also receive \$100 to spend on Literacy to support their learning.

Whether it was books or virtual learning materials we hope that this encourages the love of reading for each student. We look forward to watching the students grow and continue to love reading together.

Sister Miranda St. Thomas of Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge #399 stopped by to make our annual donation to the program.

Thank you all so much for being a part of our Family.

Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge #399



/ <http://elksfalberta.ca> / [elks.secretary@abelks.org](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.org)



## Stavely Royal Purple Elks Helps Fire Victims



The Stavely Royal Purple Elks member, Terry Nelson, presents cheques to the 3 families that were impacted by the fire near Claresholm in March 2021.

The recipients are Danny & Leah Blake and their children Emery, Courtland and Eden, Abram & Elizabeth Friesen and their children, Judy, Peter and Brittany and Pelek Garang and his wife and children.

The Royal Purple Elks received funding through their National Charity being the "Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children" to provide assistance to all 3 families.

We want to extend a big THANK YOU to all who contribute and donate to the Stavely Royal Purple Elks throughout the year. This is a great example of how these contributions make a real and measurable difference in our community!

### Dawson Creek



Pictures taken for the Paper of Bursary Presentations. Presenting are Exalted Ruler Frank Ripley and Recording Secretary of Elks Lodge 289 Shirley Brown. ER Frank Ripley presented Bursary to Britney Neuwirth, Recording Secretary Shirley Brown presented Bursary to Courtney Berg, since 1990, Dawson Creek Elks and Royal Purple have donated \$ 95,850.00 towards Bursaries

### Red Deer Elks Virtual Meat Draw



Presentation of cheque for Red Deer Elks first online 50/50 draw to Marcel Hermary at the Red Deer Elks Saturday Meat Draw



# Coronation Elks "Kids Can Catch" Day



What a fun day and such awesome weather for Kids Can Catch with the Coronation Elks 360 today. Looks like a great day was had by everyone!

## Drayton Valley Welcome Back BBQ



After months of Zoom meetings and texting back and forth, restrictions were finally lifted. We celebrated with a good old fashioned wiener roast.



Alberta Elks  
95 Spruce Ave W  
Brooks, AB T1R 0A5

Dear Alberta Elks ,

Through these extraordinary days, you have shown extraordinary kindness. Thank you for your thoughtful donation of toys and books to be enjoyed by the kids cared for at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

Gifts like yours bring joy and comfort to children in hospital and help create happy, healthy memories during an otherwise difficult time. Toys and special gifts make kids feel more at home and help brighten their spirits during their stay in hospital. Donations are used throughout the year as distractions and rewards during procedures and tests, to celebrate birthdays, holidays and other milestones, prizes for events and programs and provide entertainment in playrooms.

Thank you for your support of the 100,000 kids and families who rely on care from experts at the Alberta Children's Hospital each year. Their time in hospital will be much brighter because of your thoughtful generosity.

Sincerely,

*Christy McMurray*

Christy McMurray  
Manager, Donor Engagement



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